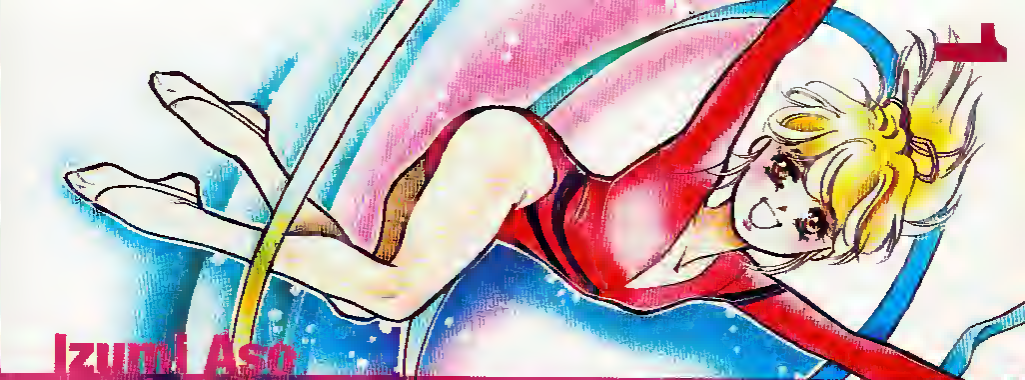


Izumi Aso

The legend of Hikari

Hikari

Remember the little gymnast Hikari, from the beloved animated series? Her striking character now returns on paper, from which her legend was originally born in the early 1980's.

As is often the case, the anime broke off right at the most beautiful moment. But thanks to the creator of the original manga series, Izumi Aso, we can finally round up the story of our protagonist. **Hikari** Sports, rhythmic gymnastics in particular, has a fundamental role in the story, but as with all shojo manga, the sentimental component is predominant. Parallel to her sports achievements, Hikari is in fact living a tormented love life. The boy she loves is a promising gymnast and the most admired athlete in school, so logically she must compete with many love rivals to gain his attention. As it happens, Hikari is so focused on her heartbreak that she doesn't realize someone else is secretly in love with her.

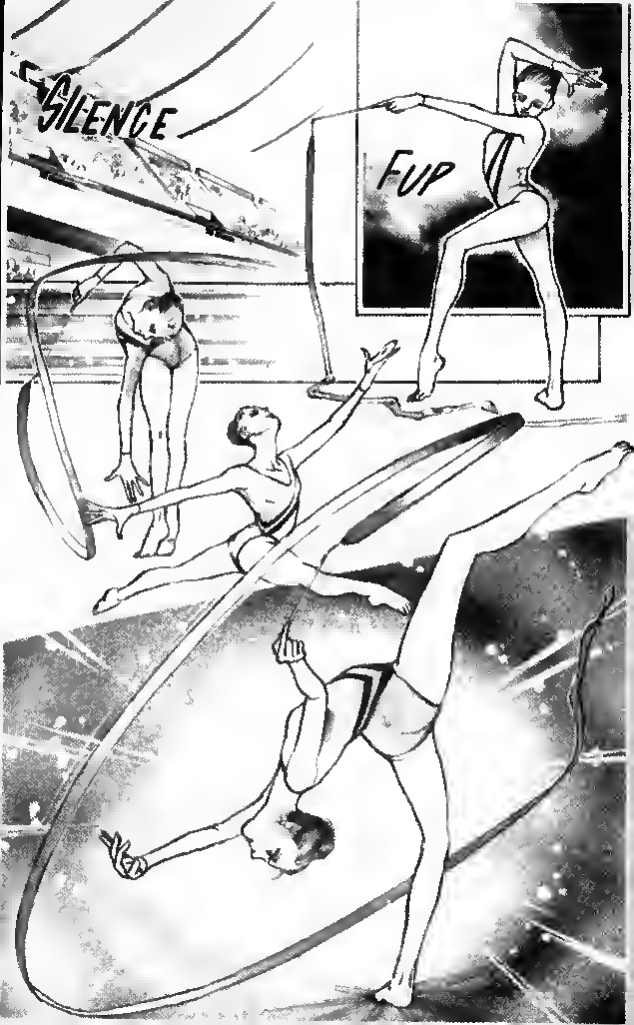
The legend of

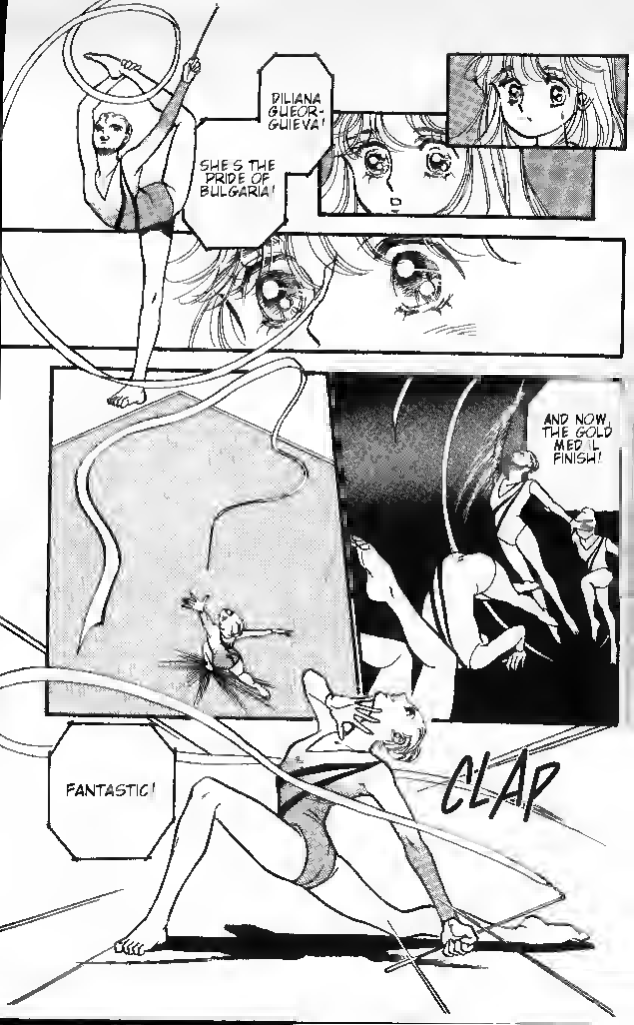
Hikari

1

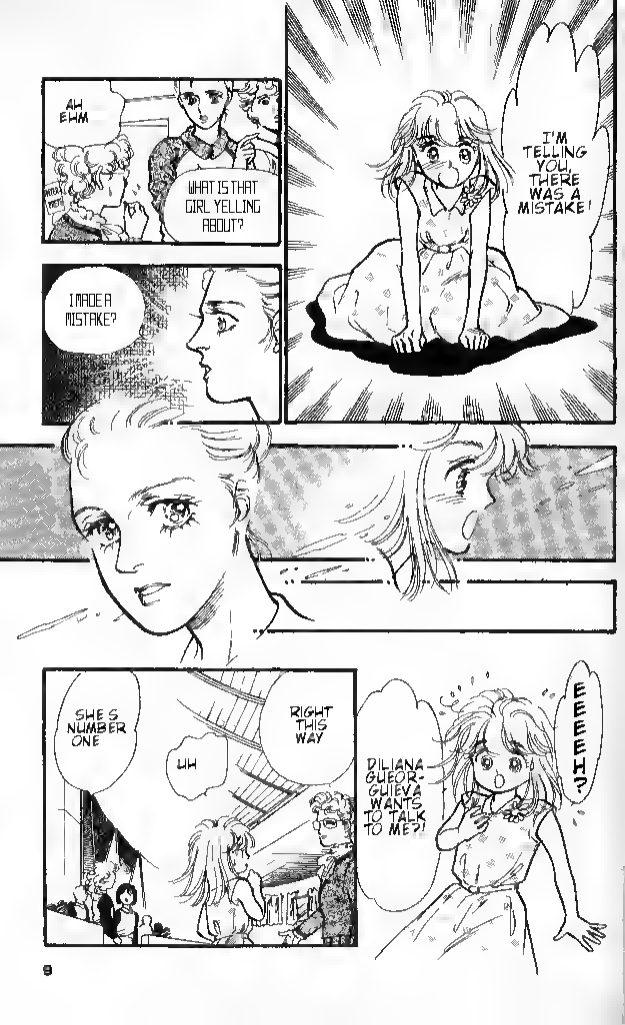
IZUMI ASO

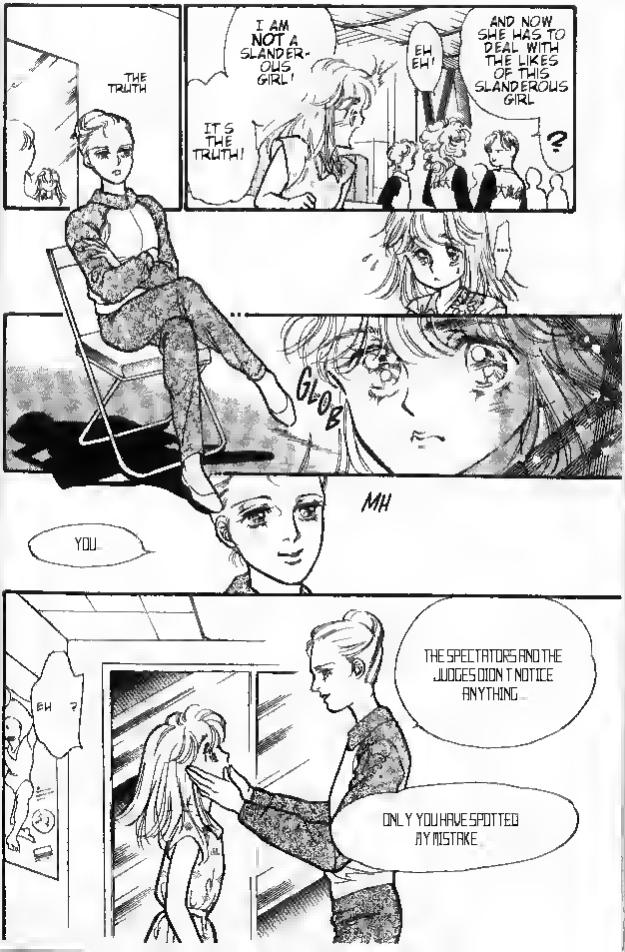
I'VE WAITED FOR MONTHS TO BE ABLE TO ADMIRE THE QUEEN!
HAH SUCH ENTH-USIASM!
THE QUEEN DILIANA GUEORGUIEVA WILL PERFORM WITH THE RIBBON!
AND NOW
INTERNATIONAL RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS MEETING
OOOOH!
BLA BLA BLA
GULP


SILENCE
FUP


DILIANA GUEORGUIEVA!
SHE'S THE PRIDE OF BULGARIA!
AND NOW, THE GOLD MEDAL FINISH!
FANTASTIC!
CLAP

NO ONE CAN CHALLENGE HER PERFORM-ANCE
MAXIMUM SCORE FOR GUEOR-GUIEVA!
WAAHHHH
10.00!
DIDN'T YOU SEE?
SHE MADE A MISTAKE, PASSING THE RIBBON BETWEEN HANDS!
HEY!
THIS SCORE IS UNFAIR!
HOW ABSURD SHE WAS PERFECT!
BLA
BLA
WHAT? A MISTAKE?
JURY!
YES, SHE WAS FANTA-STIC BUT MAX SCORE IS TOO MUCH!
LI-STEN!
GRAB
HEY! THAT'S ENOUGH!
STUD
AH!


AH EHM
WHAT IS THAT GIRL YELLING ABOUT?
I'M TELLING YOU, THERE WAS A MISTAKE!
I MADE A MISTAKE?
EEEEEH?
DILIANA GUEORGUIEVA WANTS TO TALK TO ME?!
RIGHT THIS WAY
UH
SHE'S NUMBER ONE


THE TRUTH
I AM NOT A SLANDEROUS GIRL!
IT'S THE TRUTH!
EH EH!
AND NOW SHE HAS TO DEAL WITH THE LIKES OF THIS SLANDEROUS GIRL
?
...
...
GLOB
MH
YOU...
EH ?
THE SPECTATORS AND THE JUDGES DIDN'T NOTICE ANYTHING...
ONLY YOU HAVE SPOTTED MY MISTAKE...

SMILE
SHE SAYS YOU WERE RIGHT!
EH?
SHE MADE A MISTAKE
WHY NOT COME TO TRAIN TO MY COUNTRY?
SO, TELL ME...
ARE YOU A GYMNAST?
EH?
IF YOU WANT TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL...
YOU COULD LEARN A LOT...

NOT JUST THE TECHNIQUES, EVERYTHING THAT MATTERS TO BECOME A FINE GYMNAST
THIS IS AN HONEST INVITATION
A YEAR LATER
MIDDLE SCHOOL GYM CLASS
ZUMP
MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL ATTACHED TO AIKOH COLLEGE

OBVIOUSLY!
SHE'S ONE OF THE TOP 10 YOUNG GYMNASTS OF THE WORLD!
SHIINA SENPAI IS WONDERFUL...
KAMIJO

OK!
STARTING TOMO-RROW, ABSENCES WON'T BE PERMI-TTED!
PRE-SENT!
AH!
THE NEW GIRL!
HIKARI KAMI-JO!
SORRY, IT'S JUST THAT THIS YEAR WE HAVE AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF NEW MEMBERS
YES!
YOU'RE FROM THE FIRST CLASS IN SECOND YEAR?
BYE!
SEE YA!
THUP
THUP
SO EXCALIBUR LISTING
AH...
PLA KIA

FRUSH
FRUSH
FLAP
FRSSS
EH
EH!
STAP

SWISH
VUIP
VUIP
PPI
PPI
PPI
SPLASH

WHAT A FEELING!
FFSSSSS
AH!
GOOD!
LET'S TRY THIS FIGURE ...

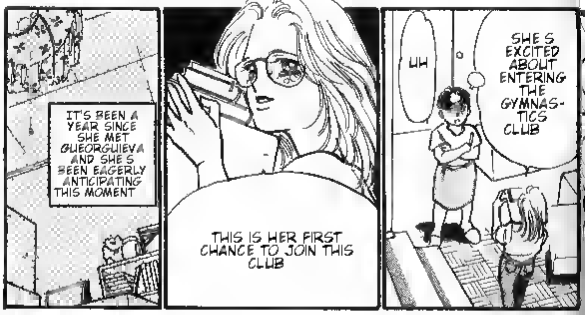
SWISH
CLAP
SWASH
I DID IT!
CLAP
CLAP CLAP
WHO'S THERE?!

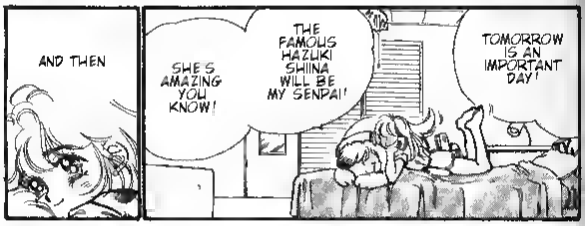
CLAP CLAP
GRAB

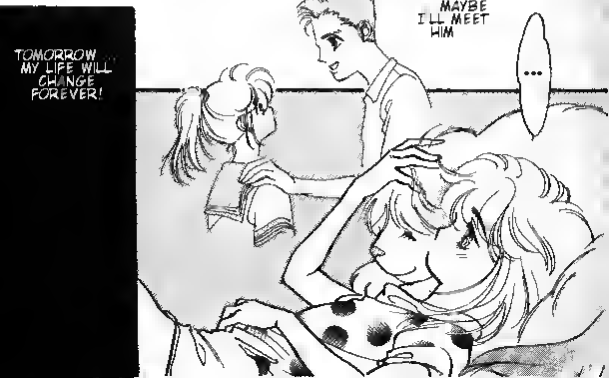
HEY! CONGRATULATIONS!
GRAB
WAH!
STHUMP
EH ?
YOUR MOVEMENTS ARE SO NATURAL!
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU IN THE GYMNASTICS CLUB BEFORE YOU'RE NOT A MEMBER?!
UH
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
WHAT YEAR ARE YOU IN?
HEY
YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST SIGN UP FOR OUR CLUB!
AH!

BLUSH
FRUSH
I EXPECT MUCH FROM YOU!
THAT'S WHY I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU BEFORE
AH, I SEE YOU'RE NEW HERE
EH?
MMM TOMORROW IS GOING TO BE PRETTY INTERE-STING

HEY!
WHO ARE YOU?
I'M YOUR NUMBER ONE FAN!
HE'LL BE MY SENPAI IN THE GYMNASTICS CLUB
HIKARI! WHY DON'T YOU SORT OUT YOUR BOXES?!
HIKA-RI?
WOOF!
HE WAS A GOOD GUY! LIKE YOU, CHACHAMARU!
STRANGE BOY
BUT

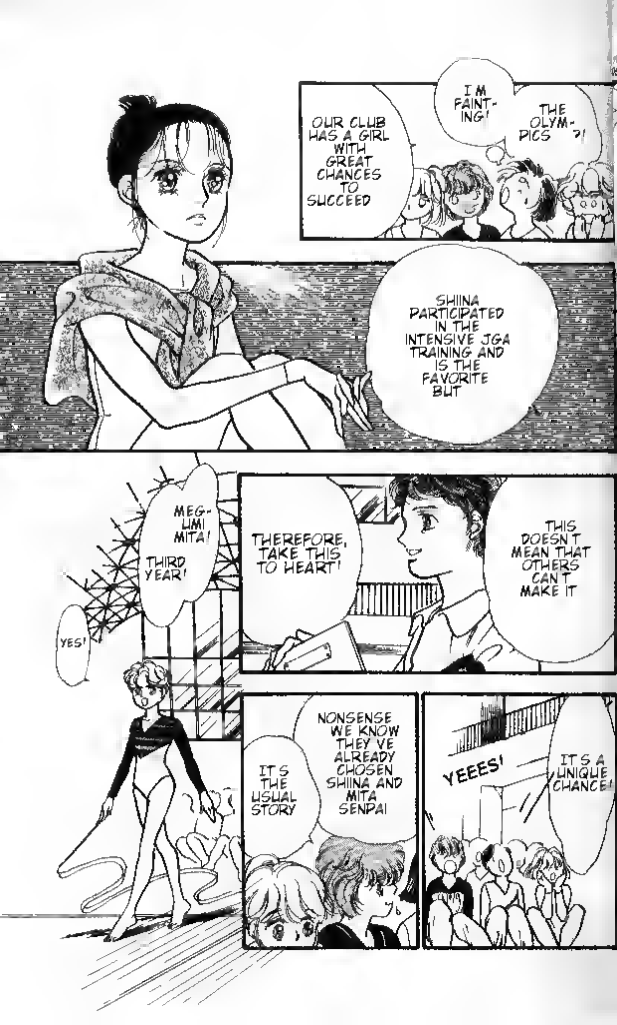

IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE SHE MET GUEORGUIEVA AND SHE'S BEEN EAGERLY ANTICIPATING THIS MOMENT
THIS IS HER FIRST CHANCE TO JOIN THIS CLUB
UH
SHE'S EXCITED ABOUT ENTERING THE GYMNASTICS CLUB


AND THEN
SHE'S AMAZING YOU KNOW!
THE FAMOUS HAZUKI SHIINA WILL BE MY SENPAI!
TOMORROW IS AN IMPORTANT DAY!


TOMORROW MY LIFE WILL CHANGE FOREVER!
MAYBE I'LL MEET HIM
...

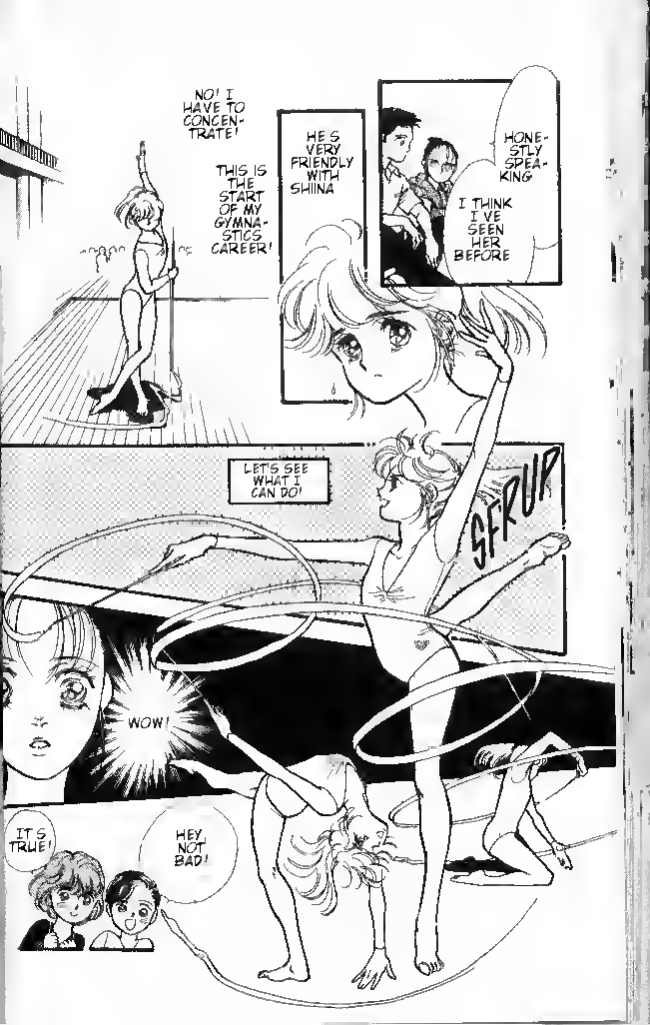
*JGA - JAPAN GYMNASTICS ASSOCIATION

THEY HAVE TO CHOOSE THE PARTICIPANTS FOR THE MIDDLE SCHOOL TOURNAMENT
EXACTLY!
TODAY?
THE SELECTIONS?
THE TOURNAMENT?
YES, THEY HOLD IT EVERY YEAR AT THE END OF AUGUST
THE SELECTIONS IS THAT WHAT THAT BOY WAS TALKING ABOUT YESTERDAY?
THEY'RE SCOUTING YOUNG TALENTS FOR THE SEOUL OLYMPICS
WHICH WILL BE HELD IN THREE YEARS
TOMORROW THE JGA* WILL ALSO BE PRESENT

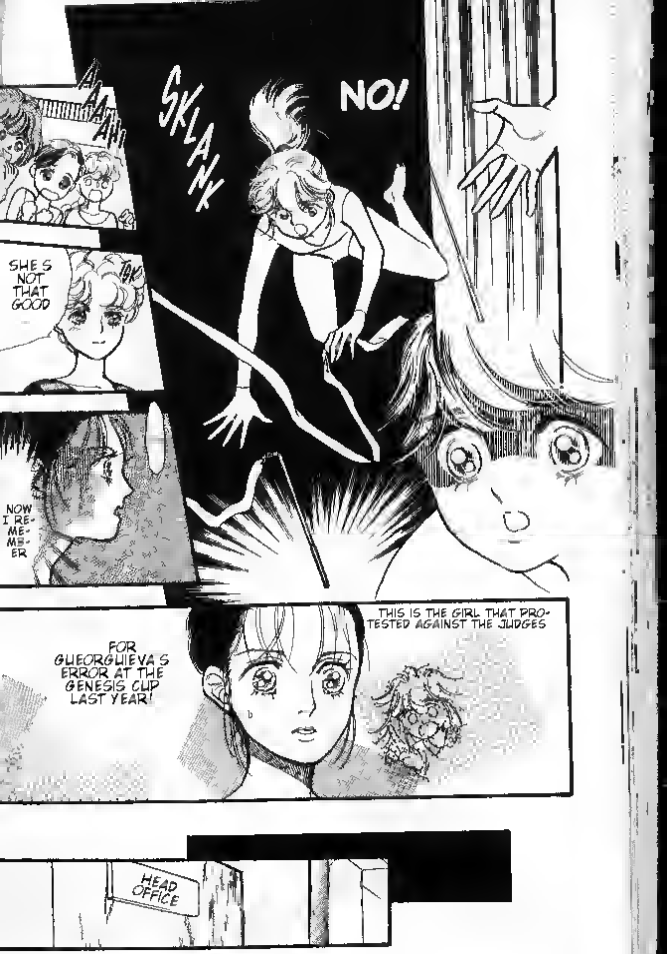

I'M FAINTING!
THE OLYMPICS ?!
OUR CLUB HAS A GIRL WITH GREAT CHANCES TO SUCCEED
SHIINA PARTICIPATED IN THE INTENSIVE JGA TRAINING AND IS THE FAVORITE BUT
MEGUMI MITA! THIRD YEAR!
YES!
THEREFORE, TAKE THIS TO HEART!
THIS DOESN'T MEAN THAT OTHERS CAN'T MAKE IT
IT'S THE USUAL STORY
NONSENSE WE KNOW THEY'VE ALREADY CHOSEN SHIINA AND MITA SENPAI
YEEES!
IT'S A UNIQUE CHANCE!

AND SHIINA SENPAI DID BALLET
SHE TRAINED DANCING BEFORE
WE'RE ALREADY EXCLUDED
GOF
NOTHING! NOTHING!
AND YOU HIKARI?
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE BEFORE?
YEAH
I'D LOVE THAT
...THE APPLAUSE FROM THE AUDIENCE...
...THE THRILL OF APPEARING BEFORE THE JUDGES
...
BUT

HERE I COME!
HIKARI KIMI-JO!
NEXT!
I WANT TO BE CHOSEN TOO!
ACK!
HIKARI, GOOD LUCK!
DON'T PRETEND YOU DON'T KNOW ANY THING
IS THAT HIS NAME?
OOI-SHI?
HEY, YOU! SINCE WHEN DO YOU KNOW OOISHI?
IT'S HIM!
YES, SINCE YEST-ERDAY
YOU KNOW THE NEW MEMBER?


NO! I HAVE TO CONCENTRATE!
THIS IS THE START OF MY GYMNASTICS CAREER!
HE'S VERY FRIENDLY WITH SHIINA
HONESTLY SPEAKING
I THINK I'VE SEEN HER BEFORE
LET'S SEE WHAT I CAN DO!
SFRUP
WOW!
IT'S TRUE!
HEY, NOT BAD!

I HAVE TO DO IT!
I HAVE TO SUCCEED THIS FIGURE TOO!
AAAAH!


SKLANK
NO!
SHE'S NOT THAT GOOD
NOW I REMEMBER
THIS IS THE GIRL THAT PROTESTED AGAINST THE JUDGES
FOR GLEORGLIEVA'S ERROR AT THE GENESIS CUP LAST YEAR!
HEAD OFFICE

TEA-CHER!
SHE'S FANT-STIC!
I THINK IT'S TIME TO GIVE THE GIRLS FROM THE SECOND YEAR ANOTHER CHANCE ...
YAMA-MOTO IS OUT
CANC
AND KAMIJO?
WELL
HM
SHIINA WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THERE ARE GIRLS IN THE THIRD YEAR, JUST AS GOOD AS HER!
I'M AGAINST IT TOO!
OOISH!
HOWEVER YOU'RE WRONG!

AT LEAST YOU HAZUKI SHOULD RECOGNIZE HER TALENT!
KAMIJO IS NOT AN ORDINARY GYMNAST!
THE JGA WILL BE PRESENT AT THIS TOURNAMENT YOU HAVE TO GIVE HER A CHANCE TO GET NOTICED!
CERTAINLY SHE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH EXPERIENCE
BUT WITH PROPER TRAINING SHE COULD EVEN SURPASS YOU HAZUKI!
SHE HAS NO ARTISTIC BASIS
I WOULDN'T GET MY HOPES UP
HAZUKI!
...
YOU THINK SO?
WHAT'S WITH YOU? YOU'RE ACTING STRANGE

TO PROVE YOU I'M RIGHT...
...I'LL BECOME HER COACH!
TAKAAKI OOISHI! ARE YOU DOUBTING MY DECISION MAKING ABILITIES AS A COACH?!
BUT WHY?!
EH?
VLAM
YOU SEE
SHE'LL GIVE UP HALF-WAY FOR SURE AND DROP IT ALL
THE TEACHER IS RIGHT!

KAMIJO!
IS THIS THE TEACHERS OFFICE?
I
MADE A MISTAKE BUT I'D LIKE TO HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE!
I KNOW IT'S AGAINST REGULATIONS BUT
PLEASE
LET ME TRY AGAIN!
PLEASE!
INK IN INK IN

OOISHI!
SO ENERGETIC!
I HOPE YOU DON'T INTEND TO CLIP HER WINGS
BUT
?
?
CALM DOWN
BELIEVE IN YOURSELF!
EH?
I BELIEVE THAT
YOU'LL LEAVE YOUR MARK ON THE JAPANESE HISTORY OF RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS!

TAP
TAP
TAP
HA!
WIRRRR
I'M LATE
I'M SORRY!
EH ?
TOTALLY DESERTED

HM
THEY VE ABANDONED ME
GEE
GRAB
WELL
LUCID LUCID
♫
ZAM
ZAM
YOU KNOW
THE ONE THAT'S BEEN SELEC-TED FOR THE TOURN-AMENT
THE NEW ONE FROM THE 2ND YEAR
HIKARI KAMI-JO!
ZAM ZAM

*ONE OF THE BIGGEST STARS OF JAPANESE RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS. SHE PARTICIPATED IN THE 1984 OLYMPICS

IN ANY CASE
A MAN COULD NEVER BE A GOOD RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS COACH
YEAH!
EVERYONE SAYS SHIINA IS THE NEW HIROKO YAMAZAKI*
I WONDER WHY ODISHI IS DEFENDING HER?!
ISN'T HE DATING SHIINA?

ABOUT RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

#1 : WHAT IS RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS?

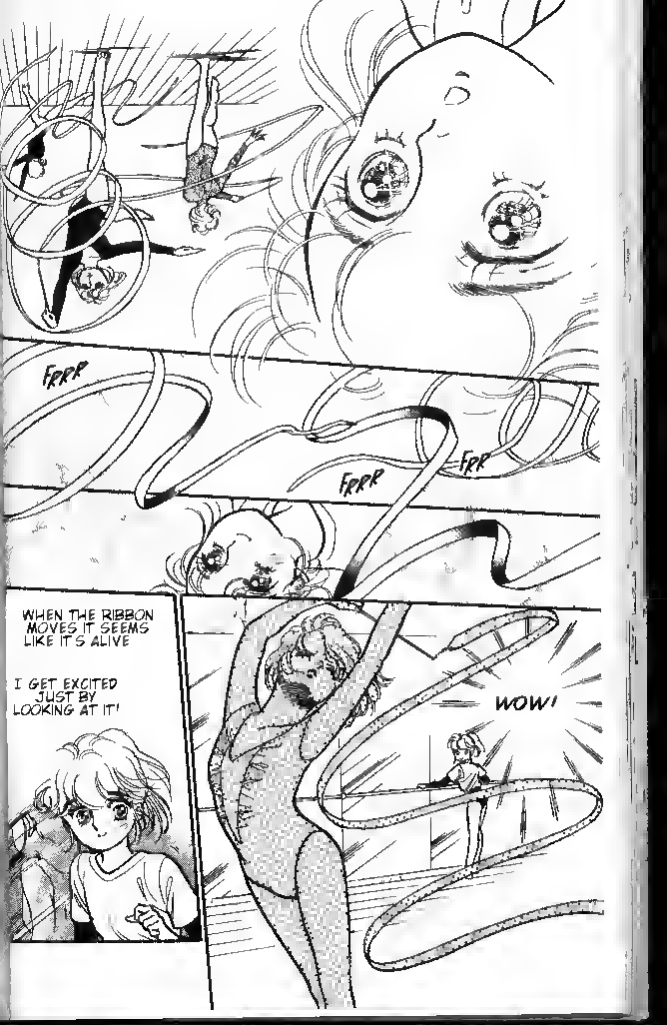
RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS WAS BORN AS A DANCE SPORT IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY THROUGH THE WORK OF A SWISS JACQUES DALCROZ. IN 1984 IT WAS OFFICIALLY INCLUDED AT THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPICS AMONG OTHER SPECIAL SPORTS. AS A RESULT IT GAINED A HUGE POPULARITY IN JAPAN WHICH PRODUCED TWO CHAMPIONS THAT YEAR - HIROKO YAMAZAKI AND ERIKA HAKIYAMA. RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS IS A SPORT IN WHICH FEMALE BEAUTY CAN BE EXPRESSED THROUGH BODY MOVEMENT, SYNCHRONIZED WITH MUSIC AND USING TOOLS SUCH AS THE BALL, HOOP, RIBBON, ROPE AND CLUBS. IT GENERALLY REQUIRES CONSIDERABLE MOTOR QUALITIES: COORDINATION, A SENSE OF RHYTHM, BALANCE, JOINT MOBILITY, MUSCLE TONE, AGILITY AND ENDURANCE. SINCE THE BASIC CHOREOGRAPHY COMES FROM BALLET, THIS DISCIPLINE MIXES ELEGANCE AND ARTISTIC EXPRESSION WITH GYMNASTIC EXERCISES. IN ADULT COMPETITIONS FOUR TOOLS ARE USED IN FIVE DIFFERENT TRIALS WITH THE JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS HAVING FOUR TRIALS. IN JAPANESE MIDDLE SCHOOLS, HIGH SCHOOLS AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AT THAT LEVEL, ONLY TWO TRIALS ARE PERFORMED. RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS DIFFERS WITH THE REGULAR SPORT AS IT DOESN'T ALLOW SOMERSAULTS AND OTHER SUCH ACROBATIC EXERCISES. THE RHYTHMIC FIGURES ARE INSTEAD BASED ON NATURAL FLOWING MOVEMENTS.

ALL OF THE ABOVE EXPLANATIONS ARE REFERENCED FROM THE PERIOD WHEN THIS MANGA WAS FIRST PUBLISHED

AH!
WIRP
SURELY HE CAN'T TEACH GIRL'S RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS!
OOISHI IS THE HOPE OF MEN'S GYMNASTICS
BOW
BRILL BRILL
WEL-COME BACK!
EXCUSE ME FOR BEING LATE
TOK
...
SO
AH
FLEXING EXERCISES IN PAIRS!
QUICKLY GIRLS!
CLAP CLAP
PUSH
PUSH

WHAT ABOUT ME?
WELL KAMIJO
DON'T YOU HAVE YOUR PERSONAL TRAINER?
MITA!
YES BUT
NOW MOVE!
OOISHI INSISTED SO MUCH ON TAKING CARE OF YOU RIGHT?
YOU CAN'T TRAIN WITH US!
DON'T DISTURB ME!
I HAVE MY PROGRAM!
...
SORRY

ELA
...
ELA
GNIK
GNIK
SPACC

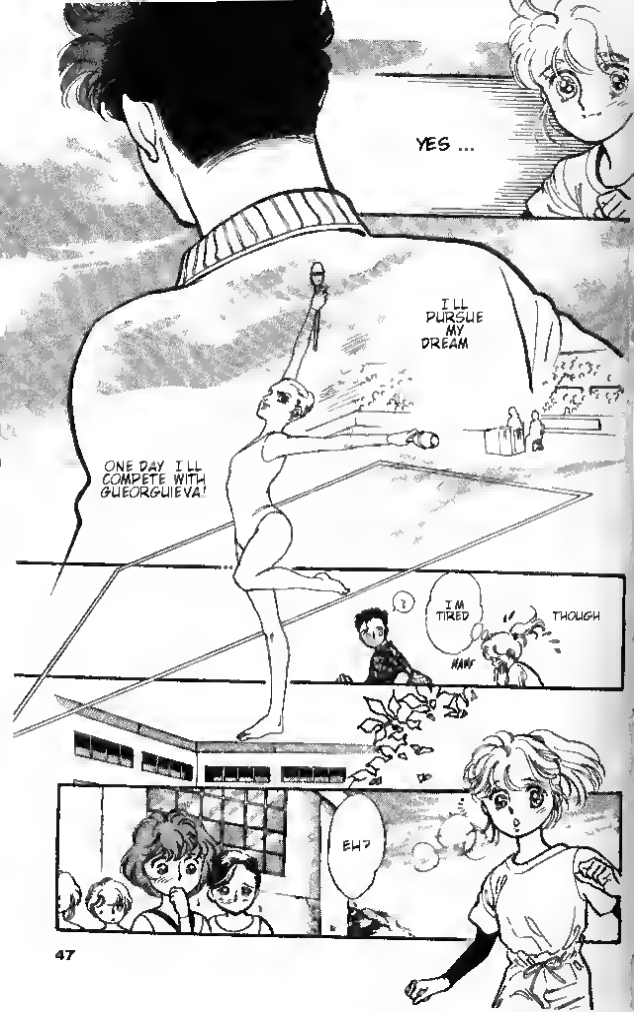

FRRR
FRRR
FRR
WHEN THE RIBBON MOVES IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S ALIVE
I GET EXCITED JUST BY LOOKING AT IT!
WOW!

UH UH
HAS YOUR COACH DUMPED YOU PERHAPS?
WHY DON'T YOU GO FOR A RUN INSTEAD?
AH!
STUMP
MOVE!
I SHOULDN'T LET THAT BRING ME DOWN
WILL I ALWAYS BE ALONE ...?
BUT FROM NOW ON
I'M USED TO TRAINING ON MY OWN!
HAHE
HAHE

AH...
OOISH!
VUSH
ZUN
!
WHAT'S UP? DID YOU SPRAIN AN ANKLE?
WHAT HAPPENED? YOUR CAT DIED?
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE JUST FINE!

SINCE I PROMISED TO PERSONALLY TRAIN YOU THE OTHERS ACT BUSY
I SEE
MH
I TOLD YOU I SEE A GREAT FUTURE FOR YOU
HEY! ARE YOU LISTEN-ING?
AH YES!
I CAN TEACH YOU THE PRINCIPLES OF REGULAR GYMNASTICS!
IT'S TRUE THAT RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS ISN'T MY SPECIALTY BUT
I'M NEVER WRONG!
TRUST ME

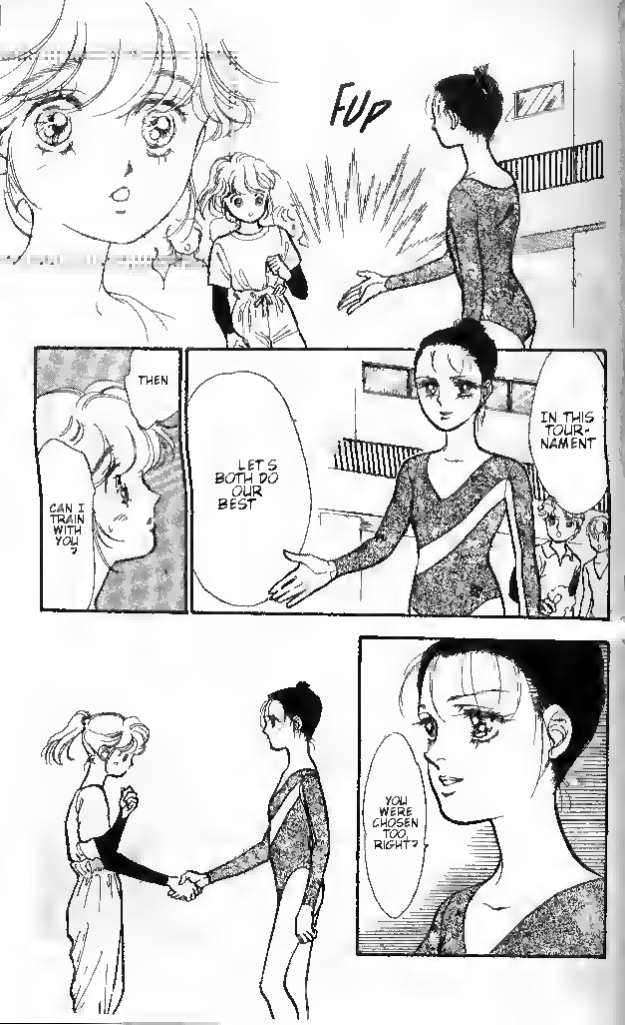
WHATEVER HAPPENS, YOU CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON ME
OOISHI ...
FASTER!
YOU CAN'T STOP HALF-WAY!
NOW ON YOUR FEET!
GPA!


YES ...
I'LL PURSUE MY DREAM
ONE DAY I'LL COMPETE WITH GUEORGUIEVA!
I'M TIRED
THOUGH
EH?

FROM NOW ON
SORRY HIKARI WE IGNORED YOU BECAUSE WE WERE SCARED OF THOSE THIRD YEARS
G-GIRLS
BUT AS OUR CLASS-MATE WE'LL SUPPORT YOU!
GGGUTI
SHIINA IS DOING HER ULTIMATE FIGURE
SHIINA ?
WAAH
OH MY GOD! SHE'S A PRODIGY!

SHE IS DEFINITELY THE NEXT HIROKO YAMAZAKI
SHE DESERVES THE PRAISE!
GULP!

WITH THIS FANTASTIC GIRL!
I HAVE TO COMPETE WITH HER ON THE SAME STAGE
WAAAH
HERE
A TOWEL
HAH-HAH-
YOU WERE WONDERFUL!
...
TAP
TAP
FUTUUM


FUP
THEN
CAN I TRAIN WITH YOU?
LET'S BOTH DO OUR BEST
IN THIS TOURNAMENT
YOU WERE CHOSEN TOO, RIGHT?

GRAB
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS!
I WILL NEVER LET YOU SURPASS ME!
...
KAMIJO!
HIKARI!
SHE ACKNOWLED-GED YOU!
IT'S DONE!
HI-KARI!
...
WELL
I'M GRATE-FUL
HOORAY! HOORAY!

BE STRONG!
GRAB
HIK-
RI
I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE TOURNA-MENT!

HIKARI NO DENSETSU
VOLUME 1, CHAPTER 1 - END

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE MANGA LIBRARY PROJECT. WHICH ISN'T A GROUP AS SUCH JUST AN IDEA TO PRESERVE AND SPREAD AROUND CLASSIC MANGA

YOU'LL NOTICE THAT THE SCANS ARE SO-SO AND THE MANGA ISN'T PARTICULARLY CLEANED UP (OR NOT MUCH AT ALL). WELL... 'TIS A TEDIOUS TASK AND TIME COULD BE WELL SPENT ON MORE FRUITFUL VENTURES. BASICALLY THE WHITES HAVE BEEN LEVELED TO 232 AND SOME DIRT REMOVED WHERE IT WAS THE MOST VISIBLE AND ANNOYING

WELL, I HOPE YOU ENJOYED READING. IT'S A FUN MANGA! CHECK OUT THE ANIME TOO